



PROGRAM BULLETIN

July 2004

Independent Living Program

ILP Experiential Groups began in Chico on June 30th. ILP youth who attend receive incentives for participating. The groups will focus on preparation for self-sufficiency and cover purchasing and owning a car, renting an apartment, consumer skills, employment tips, and networking with peers. Groups will meet each Wednesday from 4-6 for six weeks. Call Liberte' Herin at 893-2316 ext. 231 for details.

For the first time, the California Chafee Grant Program is available. The program gives up to \$5000 annually to foster youth and former foster youth to use for college courses or vocational school training. Talk to an ILP worker for more info or go to <http://www.chafee.csac.ca.gov/default.asp>. ILP caseworkers are available to assist youth with scholarship applications, FAFSA forms and accessing Chafee Grants. Congratulations to the youth who were awarded the \$400 ILP stipend for completing high school

The California Conservation Corps is now hiring men and women ages 18 to 23 for firefighting jobs. The CCC is offering firefighter training that can lead to career employment. Positions are available at residential fire camps in Butte County and near Yosemite. The CCC also offers opportunities to earn scholarships, a GED or high school diploma, work on backcountry trails, participate in an international work exchange, and more. For general CCC info go to www.ccc.ca.gov or call your local CCC office at 894-0495.

Fourteen current and former ILP youth participated in the Butte County SB 636 Self-Assessment process. Two youth forums were held to get the expert opinions of current and former foster youth about the Child Welfare System. The information shared at these meetings will be incorporated into Butte County's Self-Assessment Report to the State of California.

During the summer, ILP caseworkers will focus on familiarizing youth with the Butte Community Employment Centers (One Stops). Caseworkers will take individual youths or small groups of youths aged 17 and up to meet One Stop Resource Specialists and learn about the wide variety of services available at the One Stop.

ILP's START Program assists eligible former foster youth with housing costs while the individual completes a vocational or educational goal. For more than two years START has served former foster youth around Butte County. The program's success led to efforts to expand after care housing opportunities. Last Fall ILP began work on a housing proposal to the City of Chico. The proposed program would combine ILP's START Program and elements of Chico's Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program. The proposal was approved in May. ILP expects to have TBRA II up and running this month. For info contact Tami Thompson at 893-2316 ext. 212 or 1-888-893-4011.

ATTENTION ILP YOUTH AND YOUTH ADVOCATES! Butte County's California Youth Connection chapter wants you! You are invited to help change the foster care system. You can be a part of an organization that can change your life as well as the lives of others. CYC is made up of foster youth and adult supporters just like you. Butte County CYC meets twice monthly at Youth and Family Programs in Chico. The local chapter had a very successful car wash fundraiser on June 20th. Call 893-2316 ext. 261 to hear current Butte County CYC chapter information or leave a message. *CYC's continued success will be dependent on a strong team of adult supporters-CYC needs additional adult supporters. Join the fun!*

Butte College ILSP classes are on summer break until August 11th.

Butte County Transitional Housing Placement Programs or THPP's are some of the most active and varied in the state. Remi Vista, Youth and Family and Youth For Change each offer unique programs. ILP encourages youth, care providers, and social workers to become familiar with each. Frequently Asked Questions sheets for each program are available. Our county's THPP providers, Butte County CSD staff and ILP staff meet on a regular basis. If you'd like to sit in, contact ILP.

All teens 16 and up who are in placement are entitled to ILP services*. If you know of an unrefereed teen aged sixteen or up who lives in a foster home or a group home please contact ILP. ILP serves teens placed from other counties as well as Butte County teens. Former foster youth aged 16 to 21, who were in placement at 16 or older, can call Butte County ILP for support in the areas of employment, housing, connecting with community resources and more. Call ILP Aftercare at 893-2316 ext. 257 or 1-888-893-4011.

*Contact ILP to determine eligibility.

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For more info, visit us at : www.youthandfamily.info/our_programs/independent_living.php